



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

December 3, 2008

To School Principals:

Public schools in Arizona (including charter schools) are expected to provide all of their students the opportunity to learn the Arizona Academic Standards. In order to demonstrate this, all public schools (including charter schools) must annually submit to the Arizona Department of Education a Declaration of Curricular and Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. We have transitioned from benchmark to articulated standards in mathematics, reading, writing, science and social studies on a staggered schedule. The process/schedule of submission of Declarations has been modified accordingly. Declarations become even more critical to ensure that district/school curriculum and instruction are aligned with the articulated academic standards as the State Board approves them. The timeline for implementing the articulated standards is as follows:

Standard	Year Adopted	Inclusion in Declaration
Articulated Mathematics	2003	2004-05
Articulated Reading	2003	2004-05
Articulated Writing	2004	2005-06
Articulated Science	2004	2005-06
Articulated Social Studies	2005	2007-08
2008 Articulated Mathematics	2008	<i>Projected 2009-10</i>

The Declaration statement from the School Principal is due **February 4, 2009**. The Declaration may be submitted at anytime prior to the deadline.

We strongly encourage districts and schools to take advantage of training, workshops and professional development offered by the Arizona Department of Education to examine these articulated standards documents and to complete the alignment process at the district/school level as quickly as possible. This sense of urgency will ensure that all Arizona students have the opportunity to learn rigorous content in a comprehensive curriculum. These efforts will result in better curriculum, better teachers and better schools, the cornerstones of my administration.

For questions about the Declarations, please call Teresa Rivera at 602-364-2335. Please submit all Declarations to the following FAX: 602-364-0902

Standards-Based Best Practices
Arizona Department of Education
Cheryl J. Lebo
Associate Superintendent of Standards & Assessment
1535 West Jefferson St., Bin #5
Phoenix AZ 85007

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Enclosures